

CLAIMS

1     1.     A method for changing address information utilized by a fibre channel controller,  
2     the fibre channel controller being associated with a port of a network device, the method  
3     comprising the steps of:  
4             facilitating utilization of current address settings of a fibre channel controller for  
5     the network device;  
6             receiving information corresponding to desired address settings of the network  
7     device;  
8             storing information corresponding to the desired address settings of the network  
9     device; and  
10            replacing the current address settings with the stored, desired address settings of  
11     the network device.

1     2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the step of replacing the current address settings  
2     comprises the step of:  
3             determining whether to replace the current address settings with the stored,  
4     desired address settings upon reinitialization of the fibre channel controller.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of replacing the current address settings  
2 comprises the step of:  
3 replacing the current address settings with the stored, desired address settings  
4 while the fibre channel controller is connected to a fabric topology.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of replacing the current address settings  
2 comprises the step of:  
3 replacing the current address settings with the stored, desired address settings  
4 while the fibre channel controller is not connected to a fibre channel topology.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining whether to replace the  
2 current address settings comprises the step of:  
3 determining whether to replace the current address settings with the stored,  
4 desired address settings upon an operator initiated reset of the fibre channel controller.

1 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining whether to replace the  
2 current address settings comprises the step of:  
3 determining whether to replace the current address settings with the stored,  
4 desired address settings upon a next power cycle of the fibre channel controller.

1 7. A method for changing address information utilized by a fibre channel controller,  
2 the method comprising the steps of:

3 enabling current address information corresponding to an address of the fibre  
4 channel controller to be provided to an operator;

5 enabling address setting information corresponding to address settings of the fibre  
6 channel controller to be provided to the operator;

7 enabling the operator to change the address settings of the fibre channel  
8 controller; and

9 enabling the operator to change the current address of the fibre channel controller  
10 in response to the change of the address settings.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of enabling the operator to change the  
2 current address of the fibre channel controller comprises the step of:  
3 determining whether to replace the current address with the address settings upon  
4 reinitialization of the fibre channel controller.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of enabling the operator to change the  
2 current address of the fibre channel controller comprises the step of:  
3 replacing the current address with the address settings while the fibre channel  
4 controller is connected to a fabric topology.

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of enabling the operator to change the  
2 current address of the fibre channel controller comprises the step of:  
3 replacing the current address with the address settings while the fibre channel  
4 controller is not connected to a fibre channel topology.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of enabling the operator to change the  
2 current address of the fibre channel controller comprises the step of:  
3 determining whether to replace the current address with the address settings upon  
4 an operator initiated reset of the fibre channel controller.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of enabling the operator to change the  
2 current address of the fibre channel controller comprises the step of:  
3 determining whether to replace the current address with the address settings upon  
4 a next power cycle of the fibre channel controller.

1 13. A system for changing address information utilized by a network device, said  
2 system comprising:  
3 a control system configured to receive information corresponding to desired  
4 address settings of the network device, store information corresponding to the desired  
5 address settings of the network device, and replace the current address settings with the  
6 desired address settings of the network device such that a communications port associated  
7 with the network device may be recognized by the network as being associated with the  
8 current address.

1 14. The system of claim 13, further comprising:  
2 a communications port configured to enable communication of the network device  
3 with other devices of a network, said communications port being associated with the  
4 current address of the network device.

1 15. The system of claim 13, wherein said control system comprises:  
2 means for receiving information corresponding to desired address settings of the  
3 network device;  
4 means for storing information corresponding to the desired address settings of the  
5 network device; and  
6 means for replacing the current address settings with the desired address settings  
7 of the network device.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein said control system is implemented via a fibre  
channel controller, said fibre channel controller communicating with said  
communications port.

1 17. The system of claim 13, wherein said control system is configured to provide a  
2 graphical user interface suitable for display to an operator, said graphical user interface  
3 being configured to enable receipt of information corresponding to the desired address  
4 settings of the network device.

1 18. The system of claim 13, wherein said fibre channel controller is configured to  
2 provide an operator with an indication that the current address settings are to be replaced  
3 with the address settings even though the fibre channel controller is not presently  
4 connected to a fibre channel topology.

1 19. The system of claim 13, wherein said fibre channel controller comprises:  
2 a computer readable medium having a computer program for changing address  
3 information of the network device, said computer readable medium including logic  
4 configured to enable current address information corresponding to an address of the fibre  
5 channel controller to be provided to an operator, logic configured to enable address  
6 setting information corresponding to address settings of the fibre channel controller to be  
7 provided to the operator, logic configured to enable the operator to change the address  
8 settings of the fibre channel controller, and logic configured to enable the operator to  
9 change the current address of the fibre channel controller in response to the change of the  
10 address settings.

1 20. The system of claim 18, wherein said fibre channel controller is configured to  
2 provide a graphical user interface suitable for display to an operator, said graphical user  
3 interface being configured to provide the operator with said indication that the current  
4 address settings are to be replaced with the address settings even though the fibre channel  
5 controller is not presently connected to a fibre channel topology.